

Sun and Moon

1-3 The student will demonstrate an understanding of the features of the sky and the patterns of the Sun and the Moon. (Earth Science)

NOTE TO TEACHER: It is essential to keep this unit as basic as possible. Do not go beyond the recommendations since a child at this age is not developmentally ready to understand astronomy concepts. They will take the foundational knowledge they learn at this grade and expand on it in 4th grade.

1.3.1 Compare the features of the day and night sky.

Taxonomy level: 2.6-A Understand Factual Knowledge

Previous/Future knowledge: This is the first time that students have been introduced to features of the day and night sky. This is a foundational concept that will be further developed in 4th grade (4-3.5) when students explain how day and night occur.

It is essential for students to know that there are features that can be found in the day sky and in the night sky.

Day sky

- The day sky is when there is enough light from the Sun to see.
- The Sun is the only star seen in the day sky.
- Examples of features found in the day sky might include the Sun, the Moon, clouds, birds, or airplanes.

NOTE TO TEACHER: Do NOT allow students to look directly at the Sun.

Night sky

- The night sky is when light from the Sun can no longer be seen.
- Examples of features found in the night sky might include the Moon, clouds, airplanes, or stars.

It is not essential for students to go beyond this comparison.

Assessment Guidelines:

The objective of this indicator is to *compare* day and night sky features; therefore, the primary focus of assessment should be to detect similarities and differences between the day and night sky. However, appropriate assessments should also require students to *exemplify* features that would occur in the day sky, night sky, or both; or *recognize* specific features on a diagram.